

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION



To: W.E. Denniston

Subject: Styrene Loss at
BASF Wyandotte
North Plant
Spill # 1072-75

From: Brian Reicks

Date: 8/28/75

On Sept. 27, 1975 at 7:30 PM Basin Engineer Wayne Denniston received a call from Bill Leisten of BASF Wyandotte Corporation. He reported a loss of 10,000 gallons of styrene over a three week period. The loss had apparently gone through sand and into the ground water.

There was a tank containing styrene which developed a leak in the base. The tank had concrete dike sides but a sand bottom. The leak was not noticed because the level indicator was stuck and did not reflect the loss.

Engineer Stan Novak and the writer checked the spill site on the morning of Sept. 28. We met with Bill Leisten and Dale Roush. Marine Pollution Control was on scene pumping styrene from a concrete electrical conduit which passed next to the tank. BASF personnel assured us that there were no drains in the area.

We suggested that some holes be dug to make sure that the styrene was not going through the groundwater toward the Detroit River. Samples and pictures were taken. It should be noted that the tank and styrene were not mentioned in BASF Wyandotte's PIPP. Further checking of the area will be needed to insure total clean-up of the styrene.

cc: J. Bohunsky
R. Schrameck

BR:gm

1072

1. BASF Wyandotte Corp.

North Plant

Biddle Avenue

Wyandotte, Michigan 48192

2. At the North Works the products made are soda ash, sodium bicarbonate, polyols, carboxy methyl cellulose, and transparent iron oxide.

3. Some of the constituents expected in the discharge at the North Works are phosphates, chlorine, petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorides, phenol, and ammonia. There are no groundwater discharges. All discharges except sanitary sewage are to the Detroit River.

4. Permit # MI 0000540 -

5. They are meeting final conditions of permit as of the survey ran Oct. 11-12, 1977. There have been some pH excursions though.

6. Survey Oct. 11-12, 1977

7. Styrene is stored in a 10-15,000 gallon diked storage tank. A loss occurred on Sept. 27, 1975 from this tank. The dike was made of concrete but the base was made of sand. The styrene went through the ground into an electrical conduit from which the styrene was pumped. There is about 20,000 lbs. of phenolic compounds stored in 100 lb. drums. These are solids and don't pose a problem. There is about 2000 lbs. of quinoline stored in 450 lb. drums. This is a viscous liquid and is stored in the warehouse.

8. An approved PIPP has been implemented. PIPP # 11202

9. Additional information is needed regarding styrene tank storage. The base of the diked area was to be redone with concrete or compacted clay.

10. According to the last survey, there are some housekeeping problems regarding the loading dock area for the polyols. There was some polyol material spilled on the ground by the railroad siding. The only other groundwater problem could occur from the styrene storage as previously mentioned if the diked area hasn't been fixed. !

Polyols are not on the critical materials list. A loss of a stored critical material to either the groundwater or the Detroit River is possible but in our estimation improbable. A loss of material from the plant processing areas is much more likely.